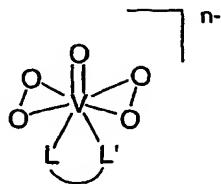
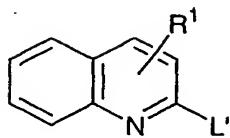
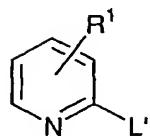


CLAIMS:

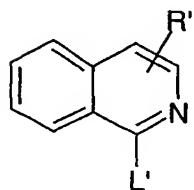
1. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5 wherein L-L' is:

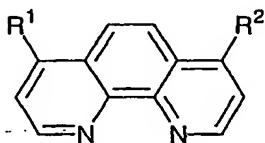
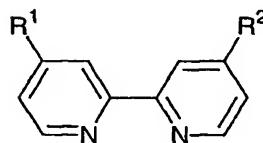


or



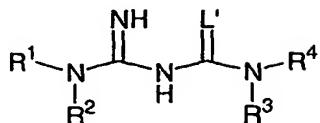
10 and L' is COO, CONR⁵, CONHR⁶, CH₂NR⁵R⁶

or wherein L and L' together form a group:



15

or a group:



wherein L' is O, S or NH;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently H, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally

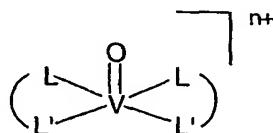
5 substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, phenyl, optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, hydroxy, NR⁷R⁸ or SO₃, (OCH₂CH₂)_n (NHCH₂CH₂)_n, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

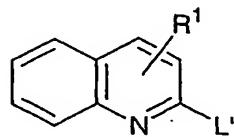
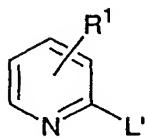
10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

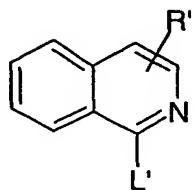
2. The use of a Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



wherein L-L' is :



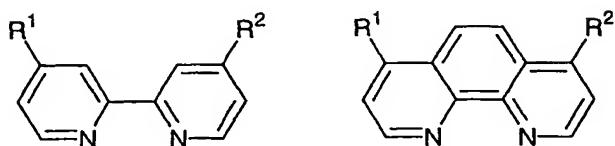
or



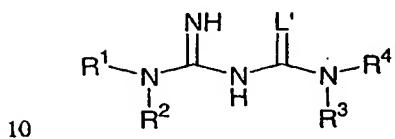
and L' is COO, CONR⁵, CONHR⁶, CH₂NR⁵R⁶

or wherein L and L' together form a group:

5



or a group:



wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently H, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR⁷R⁸, phenyl, optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, hydroxy, NR⁷R⁸ or SO₃, (OCH₂CH₂)_n (NHCH₂CH₂)_n, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

15

20 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting phosphatases.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the medicament is for use in inhibiting inositol phosphatases such as PTEN.

4. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the medicament is for use in treating diseases where inhibition of apoptosis is required.

5. The use as claimed in claim 4 wherein the disease or condition is a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease, wound healing, burns, heart hypertrophy, hypoxia, ischemia, diabetes, sports injuries and as an anticancer agent.

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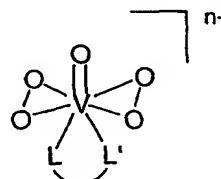
6. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is potassium bisperoxo (bipyridine) oxovanadate (bpV(bipy)), potassium bisperoxo(1,10-phenanthroline)oxovanadate (pV(phenanthroline)), potassium bisperoxo (piconinate) oxovanadate (pV(pic)) and potassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate (pV(biguan)).

7. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compound is pV(phenbig) [dipotassium bisperoxo(phenylbiguanide)oxovanadate] or bpV(HOpic) [dipotassium bisperoxo(5-hydroxypyridine-2-carboxyl)oxovanadate].

20

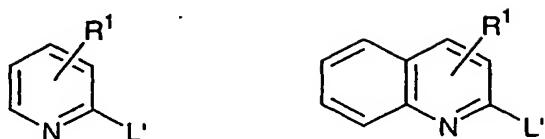
8. The use as claimed in claim 7 wherein the medicament is for the treatment of diabetes.

9. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

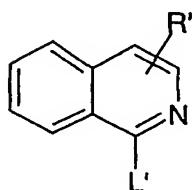


25

where L-L' is :



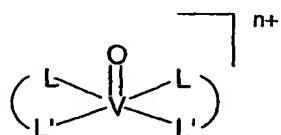
or



and L' is CONR^5 and CONHR^6 ; and

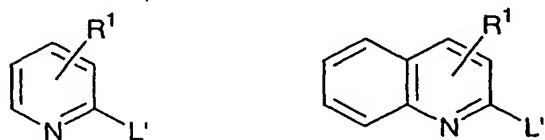
5 wherein R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyl.

10. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:

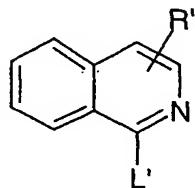


10

where $\text{L-L}'$ is :



or

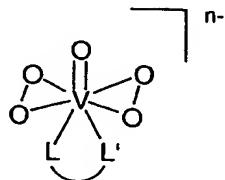


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and L' is CONR^5 and CONHR^6 ; and

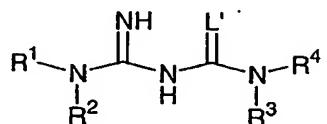
wherein R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyl.

11. A Vanadium containing compound of the formula:



5

wherein L and L' together form a group:



10 wherein L'' is O, S or NH;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently H, C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR^7R^8 , C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy or NR^7R^8 , phenyl, optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, NR^7R^8 or SO_3 , $(OCH_2CH_2)_n$

$(NHCH_2CH_2)_n$, an amino acid or a peptide consisting of 2 to 5 amino acids; and

15 R^7 and R^8 are independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as claimed in any one

of claims 9 to 11, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable

20 excipients, diluents or carriers.